

1 CLAIMS

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3 1. A method comprising:  
4 displaying at least one user input field within a graphical user interface; and  
5 automatically displaying reminder information associated with the user  
6 input field through a non-modal mechanism within the graphical user interface.

7 2. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein automatically displaying  
8 reminder information further includes monitoring user input activities and  
9 automatically displaying reminder information associated with the user input field  
10 through the non-modal mechanism after a defined period of user inactivity.

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12 3. The method as recited in Claim 2, wherein the defined period of user  
13 inactivity is greater than about three seconds.

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15 4. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the user input field is  
16 configured to input a password.

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18 5. The method as recited in Claim 4, wherein the reminder information  
19 includes user provided password reminder information.

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21 6. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the non-modal  
22 mechanism includes a tip balloon.

1        7. The method as recited in Claim 6, wherein the tip balloon is  
2 graphically associated with a manual hint input mechanism within the graphical  
3 user interface.

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5        8. The method as recited in Claim 7, wherein the tip balloon is  
6 operatively associated with the manual hint input mechanism thereby allowing the  
7 user to selectively display the reminder information associated with the user input  
8 field through the non-modal mechanism.

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10       9. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable  
11 instructions for performing steps comprising:

12       displaying at least one user input field on the display; and  
13       automatically displaying reminder information associated with the user  
14 input field through a non-modal mechanism within the graphical user interface.

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16       10. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 9, wherein  
17 automatically displaying reminder information further includes monitoring user  
18 input activities and automatically displaying reminder information associated with  
19 the user input field through the non-modal mechanism after a defined period of  
20 user inactivity.

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22       11. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 10, wherein the  
23 defined period of user inactivity is greater than about three seconds.  
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12. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 9, wherein the user input field is configured to input a password.

13. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 12, wherein the reminder information includes user provided password reminder information.

14. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 9, wherein the non-modal mechanism includes a tip balloon.

15. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 14, wherein the tip balloon is graphically associated with a manual hint input mechanism within the graphical user interface.

16. The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 15, wherein the tip balloon is operatively associated with the manual hint input mechanism thereby allowing the user to selectively display the reminder information associated with the user input field through the non-modal mechanism.

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17. An arrangement comprising:  
memory;  
a display device;  
a user input device; and  
a processor operatively coupled to the memory, the display device and the user input device, the processor being configured to:

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display at least one user input field within a graphical user interface on the display device; and

automatically display reminder information associated with the user input field through a non-modal mechanism within the graphical user interface.

18. The arrangement as recited in Claim 17, wherein the processor is further configured to monitor the user input device and automatically display reminder information associated with the user input field through the non-modal mechanism after a defined period of user input device inactivity.

19. The arrangement as recited in Claim 18, wherein the defined period of user inactivity is greater than about three seconds.

20. The arrangement as recited in Claim 17, wherein the user input field is configured to input a password.

21. The arrangement as recited in Claim 20, wherein the reminder information includes user provided password reminder information previously stored in the memory.

22. The arrangement as recited in Claim 17, wherein the non-modal mechanism includes a tip balloon.

1        23.    The arrangement as recited in Claim 22, wherein the tip balloon is  
2 graphically associated with a manual hint input mechanism within the graphical  
3 user interface.

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5        24.    The arrangement as recited in Claim 23, wherein the tip balloon is  
6 operatively associated with the manual hint input mechanism thereby allowing the  
7 user to selectively display the reminder information associated with the user input  
8 field through the non-modal mechanism.